

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks are submitted in response to the Final Office Action issued on November 1, 2006 in connection with the above-identified application, are being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for responding to the Final Office Action, and are accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination and the appropriate Request fee. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims, consistent with the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 19 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Preliminarily, the Examiner has objected to the specification for the reason that the generally planar brim surface and the distal edge that resides in a plane are not described in the specification. However, Applicants respectfully point out that the generally planar brim surface is described in the specification at least at paragraph 31 thereof as a brim portion 35 of the body 19 that faces toward the brim 17 of the flange 15 when the weight 20 is mounted to the rim 11. Such brim portion 35 is also shown in Figs. 2B, 2C, 4B, and 4C. Moreover, Applicants respectfully point out that the distal edge generally in the plane of the brim surface is shown at least in Figs. 2B and 4B as the right-most part of the gripping section 39 of the clip 21. Applicants have amended the specification at paragraph 32 to further describe the distal edge already shown in such Figs. 2B, 2C, 4B, and 4C. In addition, Applicants have amended the specification at paragraph 32 to further describe subject matter newly recited in claims 1 and 11 regarding the clip and compartment shown in such Figs. 2B,

2C, 4B, and 4C. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that such amended paragraph 32 does not include new matter.

The Examiner also objects to the term “separable from” as employed in the claims, and instead suggests - - separate from - - . Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over Hume (U.S. Patent No. 2,122,064) (Hume ‘064) in view of Hume (U.S. Patent No. 2,036,757) (Hume ‘757) and Ende (U.S. Patent No. 3,669,500). Applicants respectfully traverse the section 103 rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1 recites a wheel-balancing weight for mounting to a wheel with a flange. The weight includes a weighted body and a clip securely attached thereto. The clip has a gripping section and the body has a gripping surface generally opposite the gripping section of the clip. The gripping section of the clip and the gripping surface of the body in combination define a compartment therebetween, where the compartment receives the flange therein when the weight is mounted thereto such that the gripping section of the clip and the gripping surface of the body are on opposite sides of the flange and grip the flange therebetween.

In pertinent part, claim 1 as amended further recites that the gripping section of the clip extends from a generally planar attaching section of such clip by firstly extending away at an angle of roughly 135 degrees or so from a gripping surface of a flange face of the body and also away from an attaching surface of the body and secondly curving back toward and then along with but separate from the gripping surface of the flange face of the body. As such, the compartment defined by the gripping section extends along the gripping surface of

the flange face of the body and beyond a plane generally coextensive with the attaching surface of the body, with a result being that such compartment allows a distal edge of a lip of the flange when received thereinto to likewise extend beyond the plane generally coextensive with the attaching surface of the body. In addition, claim 1 as amended continues to recite that the gripping section of a clip that has a distal edge that resides in a plane generally coextensive with a generally planar brim surface of the body.

Claim 11 recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, albeit in the form of a vehicle with the wheel and the weight of claim 1.

The Hume '064 reference, the Hume '757 reference, and the Ende reference all disclose wheel-balancing weights with a body and a clip. However, none of such references discloses or even suggests that the clip of such a weight has a gripping section that extends in the curving manner recited in claims 1 and 11.

More particularly, none of the clips of such references has a gripping section that extends from a generally planar attaching section of such clip by firstly extending away at an angle of roughly 135 degrees or so from a gripping surface of a flange face of the body and also away from an attaching surface of the body and secondly curving back toward and then along with but separate from the gripping surface of the flange face of the body, and has a distal edge that resides in a plane generally coextensive with a generally planar brim surface of the body, all as is recited in claims 1 and 11. Thus, none of such references discloses or suggests a compartment defined by the gripping section that extends along the gripping surface of the flange face of the body and beyond a plane generally coextensive with the attaching surface of the body, as is recited in claims 1 and 11, with the result being that such

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compartment allows a distal edge of a lip of the flange when received thereinto to likewise extend beyond the plane generally coextensive with the attaching surface of the body.

Instead, each of the Hume '064, Hume '757, and Ende references has a clip with a gripping section with a distal end that extends about 180 degrees from an attaching surface and about 90 degrees from a gripping surface, and such gripping section then extends a large distance past the plane of the brim portion of the body thereof, at least with regard to the Hume '064 and Hume '757 references.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit none of the cited references discloses or even suggests the clip recited in amended claims 1 and 11 of the present application. As a result, none of such references can be applied to make obvious such claims 1 and 11 and any claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103 rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application including claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 19 is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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